

#### Urban Gateways to Natural Areas



AUGUSTUS F.
HAWKINS
NATURAL

### PARK ###

- The Augustus F.
  Hawkins Natural
  Park A case study
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority



# Conservancy Mission – Access to our Public Open Spaces

- Expanding the agency's efforts to integrate nature into the urban environment;
- Expanding education, public access, and resource stewardship in a manner that best serves the public, protects habitats and provides recreational opportunities
  - \* From Strategic Plan 2002



#### The Access Big Picture

Community Youth Leadership Involvement & Job **Santa Monica Mountains** 

Transportation

Programs



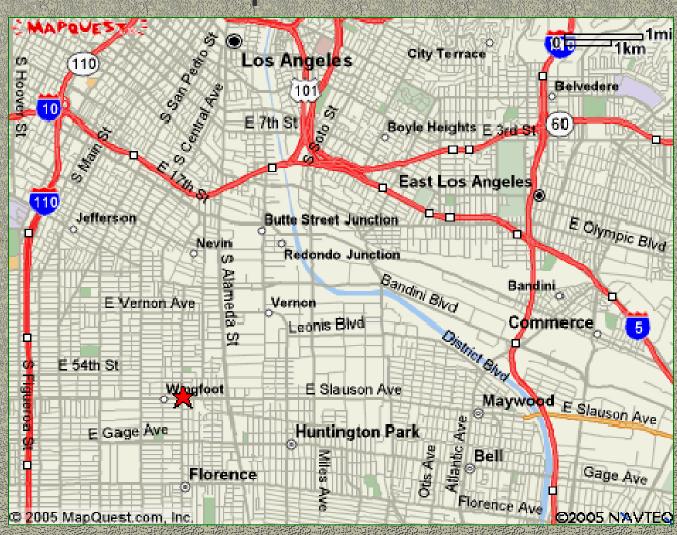
# The Vision – Bring the Santa Monica Mountains to the center of the city, creating an urban gateway to our parks







## 5790 Compton Avenue, Los Angeles Corner of Compton and Slauson





#### Community Profile



#### **lincome Level**

- Median Household income
- \$20,590

- 26.7% of households generate less than \$10,000 per year (the largest single bracket).
- Per Capita Income \$7,275
- 46.1% of families live below poverty level



## Breakdown according to race:

- 73% Hispanic
- 21% African American
- 3% Caucasian
- 3% Other

#### I Ace

- 46.1% of population is under19 years of age
- Median Age 21.6



#### Education

- 49.1% of population 25 and older have a less than 9th grade level of education.
- Only 15.6% have a high school diploma or an equivalent.

#### Other Statistics

52.6% of the population over 16 have children under 6 years of age



# The Mission – Provide a high quality traditional park experience to residents of South Central

- Traditional Campfires
- Nature Center
- Ranger Programs
- Overnight Camping







## Community Involvement in Park Development

CommunityMeetings throughout planning process



- On-site
- Bilingual staff and materials
- Activities for children
- F000



### Celebrate each new phase







### Hire from the community



Over 50 jobs

A pair of boots

A letter of recommendation





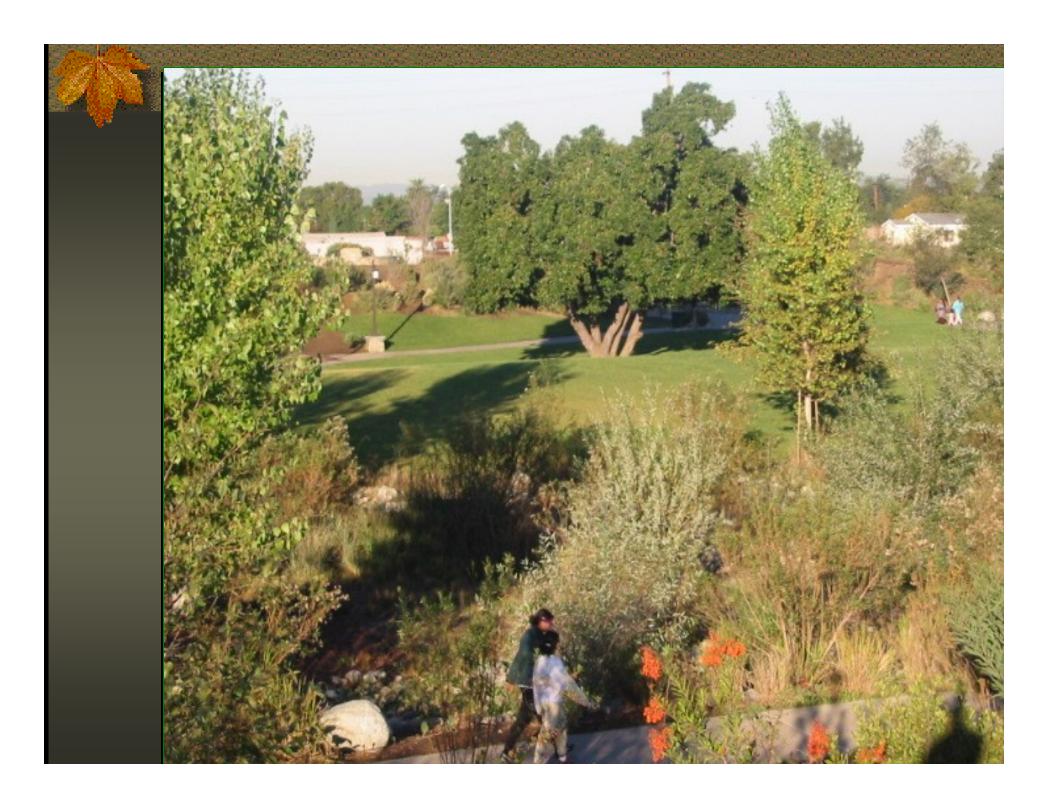
# Celebrate the opening as a community victory















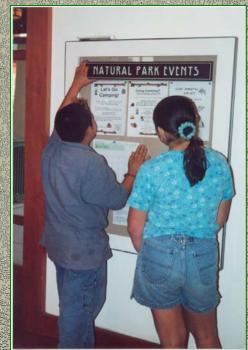


























# A staff that reflects the community











#### Programs, Programs, Programs

- Good Use Drives out Bad
- Building an urban constituency
- Active involvement with and in nature promotes stewardship and enhances quality of life

Youth Programs
Family Programs
Programs in Mountain Parks



### Youth Programs

- Careers in the Parks
- Exploring the Natural World
- Teambuilding and Leadership

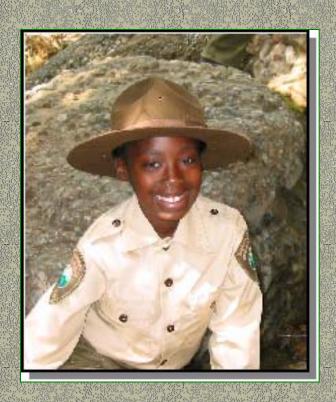








## Careers in the parks





Junior Rangers and Ranger Explorers



#### Firefighting, First Aid, Survival Skills















Ropes, SAR, Orienteering



#### Naturalist



## Biologist



Ranger





## Exploring the Natural World



















#### Team Building and Leadership



























Become a certified junior master gardener!

Build your own plant bed, plant and tend for your garden,
discover the wonderful world of worms, learn about the science of
horticulture, make crafts with plants.

#### Orientation meetings

Meet in the Nature Center Wednesday, April 25 4:00 pm Saturday, April 28 11:00 am

















## Family Programs











#### Trips to the Mountains

Every Saturday, free of charge







# Continued Community Involvement

AUGUSTUS F. HAWKINS NATURAL PARK

#### **Community Meeting**



#### Tuesday, April 3, at 7 pm

AUGUSTUS F.
HAWKINS

NATURAL

PARK

The Augustus F. Hawkins Natural Park 5790 Compton Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90011 (323) 585-3205 (323) 582-4507 Fax

Phone: 323) 585-3205 Fax (323) 582-4507 December 16, 2000 Governor Gray Davis opened the Augustus F. Hawkins Natural Park at 5790 Compton Avenue. It was important to us during the design and construction of this groundbreaking park that community members like yourself were part of the process every step of the way - and we do not want that to end now that the park has opened.

\*Learn about new classes for the community \*

Meet the park staff \* Get the new schedule\*

Give us your ideas!!





# Connecting Youth to the Outdoors

Awaken Enthusiasm through direct

experience

Teach less, share more

Immersion

Respond to their interests

Make it relevant

Be passionate

d-lave Run!





#### The keys to success:

- Vision
- Flexibility
- Creativity
- The right staff
- Community partnership
  - TRAINING